The SLR 2000 Remote Access Terminal

Randy Ricklefs
University of Texas, McDonad Observatory

Jan McGarry NASA / Goddard Space Flight Center

Unlike current satellite laser ranging stations, the SLR2000 systems are to run autonomously, requiring no operator intervention or control on a regular basis. However, during the initial system development and debugging as well as during regular maintenance and upgrades of these stations, some type of human interface beyond a shell prompt will be required. To fulfil this need the Remote Access Terminal (RAT) is being developed. It will allow the operator to examine current ranging system status and faults, display current and recent data of many types, and override system operating parameters and decisions. This is accomplished by running an X windows/Motif-based graphical interface program on a laptop computer connected via the internet. The RAT accesses the SLR-2000 system via an information and command server on the the SLR2000 Data Analysis system (DAN) across a Berkley socket interface and via Network File System (NFS). The RAT is being built for a PC laptop running the freely available Unix-like operating system Linux (Red Hat distribution).